

Mission San Luis Rey de Francia
Oceanside, San Diego County,
California (5 MILES)

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of California #3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Henry F. Withey, District Officer
407 So. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, California

MISSION SAN LUIS REY DE FRANCIA
Mission Road, Oceanside, San Diego County, California
(5 miles)

37-Ocs:V

Owner: Roman Catholic Bishop, Diocese of San Diego,
1528 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, California.

Date of erection: Foundation of the present church was laid in 1811, building completed in 1815. By 1829 a dome over the crossing had been added and wall and ceiling decorations completed. Written reports show additions to the sacristy and church to have been made in 1832.

Architect:

Builder: Indians and Mission soldiers under direction of Padre Antonio Peyri.

Present Condition: Church is well preserved and cared for, is about as originally built except that the dome and lantern over the crossing of the nave have been rebuilt and is of a different design ~~than~~ ^{FROM} the original.

Materials of construction: Field stone foundation laid probably in lime mortar. Walls of adobe, though much burned brick was used for the pilasters, mouldings, the belfry, dome over the mortuary chapel, the alters and arches, all of which were plastered. Roof is of wood construction tile covered. Restoration work has been carried on since 1893.

Other existing records: Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M. "The Missions and Missionaries of California," "Mission San Luis Rey, The King of Missions." H. H. Bancroft, "History of California." Rexford Newcomb, "The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California."

Additional Data: San Luis Rey de Francia was founded in 1798 and became the 18th in the chain of 21 established in California. As with the other Missions the general plan was much the same, the church, the Padres quarters, shops, store houses, grainery etc, planned around a large open court but in this case upon a larger scale and more pretentious than any of the others except possibly that at Capistrano. Only the church, a certain number of cloister brick arches and the ruins of a few walls now remain. Repairs to the church which was in a much ruined condition, began in 1892 under direction of Father O'Keefe. Church was rededicated in 1893. New Padre quarters and dormitories erected in 1898 have taken the place of structures that fell into ruin in the last half of the 19th century. The dome of the church was rebuilt in 1930 after plans made by Lescher & Mahony, Architects of Tucson, Arizona.


June 1, 1937. 